

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 230533Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 119

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DEMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN 04

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSULATE KHORRAMSHAHR

USCINCEUR, VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TABRIZ 22

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SREF, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN

SUMMARY: IRANIAN BORDER AREA OFFICIALS NOW CONFIRM
NEW TEHRAN INSTRUCTIONS THAT REFUGEES WISHING TO
REMAIN IN IRAN WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO IRANIAN SOCIETY.
FEW WILL BE ALLOWED REMAIN OR WORK IN TRADITIONAL
KURDISH AREAS NEAR IRAQI BORDER. IMPLIMENTATION OF
THIS GOAL IS STILL BEING POSTPONED AS IRANIANS WAIT TO
SEE HOW MANY KURDS WILL ELECT RETURN TO IRAQ. FLOW OF
RETURNEES IS GRADUALLY ACCELERATING AND IS NOW INCLUDING
PROFESSIONALS AS WELL AS PEASANTS. THOSE DECIDING RETURN IRAQ
RATHER SKEPTICAL ABOUT LONG TERM FUTURE BUT SEEM MOTIVATED
MAINLY BY DESIRE REUNITE FAMILIES. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE
OF OVERT IRANIAN PRESSURE ON REFUGEES TO RETURN. RATE
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OF RETURN IS NOT HIGH ENOUGH TON END REFUGEE PROBLEM IF

BORDER ACTUALLY CLOSES END OF APRIL. HOWEVER, IF IRAQ
ALLOWS FURTHER EXTENSION CONTINUED FLOW OF REFUGEES BACK
COULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE TOTAL REMAINING IRAN IN NEXT
SEVERAL MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. I VISITED WEST AZERBAIJAN APRIL 13-17. CHIEF OF
INTELLIGENCE (SAVAK) AND DIRECTOR OF RED LION AND SUN
(IRANIAN RED CROSS) BOTH CONFIRMED THAT INSTRUCTIONS NOW
RECEIVED FROM TEHRAN THAT REFUGEES WISHING REMAIN IRAN
WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO IRANIAN SOCIETY. PROFESSIONALLY
QUALIFIED PEOPLE WILL BE OFFERED JOBS ALL OVER IRAN.
FARMERS WILL BE OFFERED LANDS WHERE SUCH CAN BE FOUND
BUT CHIEF SAVAK EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE IN
AREAS OF WESTERN IRAN POPULATED BY IRANIAN KURDS. HE
FURTHER STATED THAT WHILE FAMILIES WILL BE KEPT TOGETHER
NO ATTENTION OR EFFORT WILL BE GIVEN TO KEEPING TRIBES
TOGETHER. ONLY STEPS YET TAKEN TOWARD THIS POLICY ARE
MORE CAREFUL REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONALS BE SKILLS
AND DEGREES, AND FACT RED LION OFFICIALS NOW ARE INSTRUCTED
REFER TO KURDS AS GUESTS RATHER THAN REFUGEES. OTHERWISE,
IRANIANS STILL WAITING SEE HOW MANY REFUGEES WILL ELECT
RETURN IRAQ.

2. PACE OF RETURN DEFINITELY SPEEDING UP. THIS CITED
BY PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN REZAIYEH, LOCAL OFFICIALS IN
TOWNS OF NAGADEH AND MAHABAD (BOTH HOST TO LARGE NUMBERS
IRAQI KURDS) AND VARIOUS IRAQI KURDS I SPOKE WITH ON
THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS. DEPARTURES WERE ALSO OBSERVABLE
IN PRESENCE FEWER REFUGEES AROUND LARGE CAMP NEAR SARDASHT,
WHICH I SAW APRIL 16. EXACT FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE BUT
RED LION DIRECTOR GUESSED 10,000 MORE HAD DEPARTED IN
LAST TWO WEEKS FROM ALL OVER IRAN. WHATEVER EXACT
FIGURES, EVERYONE IS CONSCIOUS OF CHANGE AND THIS IS
ITSELF CAN BE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE STILL MORE TO HEAD
FOR HOME. IF BORDER ACTUALLY CLOSES END OF APRIL THESE
DEPARTURES MAY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT AGAINST TOTAL NUMBERS
REMAINING IRAN (STILL AROUND 130 TO 140,000)

3. IRAQI GOVERNMENT DOES APPEAR INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING
KURDS TO RETURN. SOME SURRENDERED PESH MERGA HAVE BEEN
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ALLOWED CROSS TO IRAN TO PICK UP FAMILIES FROM CAMPS AND
SOME APPEALS FROM FAMILIES IN IRAQ TO REFUGEES IRAN TO
RETURN HAVE BEEN ALLOWED PASS INTO IRAN. DESIRE TO
REUNITE FAMILIES SEEMS TO BE STRONGEST PULL IN GETTING
REFUGEES TO RETURN. THIS THEME WAS REPEATED BY ALL IRAQI
KURDS WITH WHOM I SPOKE. AT SAME TIME KURDS VOICED
CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM ABOUT WHAT FUTURE IN IRAQ HOLDS
FOR THEM. NO REAL LEADERS OF KDP OR KURDISH COMMANDERS

HAVE BEEN WILLING RETURN.

4. BARZANI AND IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE ARE APPARENTLY STILL OPPOSED TO KURDS RETURNING IN HOPES THAT IRAQI-IRANIAN RELATIONS MAY SOUR AGAIN AND GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITY PLAY SOME POLITICAL ROLE. HOWEVER, ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO IDRIS BARZANI TOLD ME THAT KDP LEADERS BEING LIMITED IN CONTACTS WITH KURDS AND THEIR INFLUENCE AGAINST RETURN BEING THWARTED BY IRANIANS. UNSIGNED NOTE, APPARENTLY FROM IDRIS BARZANI, STATES GENERAL BARZANI UNDER UNOFFICIAL HOUSE ARREST IN TEHRAN. ADDITIONALLY, ALL SOURCES AGREED BARZANI'S INFLUENCE HAS SUFFERED BADLY AS RESULT SIDASTROUS ENDING OF WAR. THUS CONCLUSION SEEMS WARRENTED THAT DESPITE BARZANI'S WISH HOLD REFUGEES TOGETHER THE FLOW BACK TO IRAQ WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME IF THE BORDER REMAINS OPEN. IT REMAINS TO SOON TO ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO MIGHT FINALLY RETURN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTATNCES.
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